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FOREIGN OFFICE

DEPT. ARABIAN

PART

File No. BT 1815

TITLE: TRUCIAL STATES: SOCIAL: ZANZIBARI REFUGEES.

REFER TO			REFER TO			REFER TO		
DEPT.	NAME	DATE	DEPT.	NAME	DATE	DEPT.	NAME	DATE
B	MCSW	20/9						
US	Mr Mapp	21/9						
B.	Div	25/9						
B	PHLE	7/3						
	Div	8/3						
B	PHLE	4/4						
UN	Mr Mapp	5/4						
	Div	7/5						
B	[redacted] IG(B.U)	6/6.						
	Div	7/6						
B.	PG	14/6						
	PG	21/6						
	Div	24/6						
B	PG	12/7						

W 413

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(18/8)

LAST PAPER

BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL,
MUSCAT.
7 July, 1968.

RECEIVED IN ARCHIVES No. 5
12 JUL 1968
BT 18/5.

Dear Gent

Settlement of Zanzibaris in Muscat

Would you please refer to your letter BT 18/5 of 20 June.

2. The crux of the matter is whether or not the Zanzibaris concerned have any claim to Omani nationality. If the Sultan regards them as his nationals they will be allowed in; if not, not.

3. It is a frustrating task trying to find out exactly whom the Sultan regards as his nationals. I deduce from case histories which have come our way that basically Omani nationality is acquired by birth to an Omani mother or father, either in the Sultanate or abroad, and that this principle is capable of extension through an indefinite number of generations. I am trying to obtain official confirmation of this deduction.

4. If my undertaking is correct it follows that any Zanzibari who can substantiate a claim of Omani descent will be accepted as a Sultanate national and is free to come to Muscat. At the time of the mass expulsions of Manga Arabs from Zanzibar, the Sultan accepted some thousands of refugees, on these grounds, considerably relaxing his usually inflexible rules in the process. In May 1965, the crisis being over, the Sultan decided that normal practice should be resumed, and accordingly on 20 May 1965 a notice was issued, the relevant paragraphs of which read:-

"All concerned are hereby advised that Sultanate Nationals at present residing in Zanzibar and other African countries who desire to return to the Sultanate should now conform to the normal formalities for obtaining Sultanate travel documents from the Sultanate Passport Office before their arrival at Muscat. Applications from abroad should be sent through relatives in this country to the Passport Office or may be addressed direct to this office accompanied by a sum of Rs. 25/- (equivalent to £1.17.8 or 1.882 South Arabian Dinar) as fees and postage and 4 copies of the applicants passport size photographs.

Persons without passports will not be allowed to land."

/All

LAST PAPER

RESTRICTED

5. All of which leads me to suggest that we should say to Mr. Lamki that any Zanzibari in exile who claims Omani nationality by descent is eligible to apply for a Sultanate passport in the manner prescribed above, and that once he has a passport he is free to enter the Sultanate. If I ever get a ruling about the Sultanate nationality law this could be passed on.

6. I agree that we should not involve ourselves otherwise.

Yours ever,

Denzil Pragnell

(D. Pragnell)

P. Gent, Esq.,
Arabian Department,
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

c.c. P.R.H. Wright, Esq., Cairo
R.H. Hobden, Esq., Canadian High Commission, British Interests Section, Dar es Salaam.

COMMONWEALTH OFFICE,

DOWNING STREET, S.W.1.

PR 1/2

19 June, 1968.

RECEIVED IN ARCHIVES No. 5
21 JUN 1968
BT 18/5

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Gent,

Resettlement of Zanzibaris in Muscat

Hobden has sent me a copy of his letter of 7 June to Wright at Cairo about the resettlement of Zanzibaris in Muscat. He also sent you a copy.

2. The last information we have on our files is given in the record of the Standing Conference on British Organisations for Aid to Refugees' Sub-Committee for Africa South of the Sahara of 6 April, 1966. This record was sent to us by your Office. At this meeting, Mr. Kelly, the representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, reported that so far 1,100 refugees had been evacuated. The Secretary of the Disasters Emergency Committee of the Red Cross, Hodgson, said that there were still 1,256 waiting to go. I cannot find the public speech of Vice President Karume saying that there was no longer any need for any Arabs in Zanzibar to want to leave the islands, but it is clear from our files that in 1966 it was thought that Karume did not wish for any further evacuation and it seemed clear from Dar es Salaam's telegram No.1333 of 2 September, 1964, a copy of which is enclosed, reporting a meeting between Karume and the Red Cross representative who was later deported that even at that stage Karume was opposed to the departure of the Arabs.

3. I am sending a copy of this letter to Hobden.

Yours sincerely,

South Pettitt

(R.G. Pettitt)
East Africa Department

P. Gent, Esq.,
Arabian Department,
Foreign Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

Inward Telegram to Commonwealth Relations Office

144

FROM: DAR ES SALAAM

RPTD: ZANZIBAR (SAVING)

D. DAR ES SALAAM 17.29 hours 2nd September 1964
R. 18.23 hours 2nd September 1964

- 3 SEP 1964

Mr. R.W.D. Fowler

CYPHER
IMMEDIATE
No. 1333 CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed Commonwealth Relations Office No.1333 repeated Saving to Zanzibar.

Your telegram No. 1717. (142)

MANGA ARABS

Phillips has now arrived in Dar es Salaam and will stay here pending further instructions. He has been careful to represent his departure as being for consultations and hopes publicity will be avoided. He has left arrangements for Arabs in hands of local Zanzibar Red Cross representative. He doubts however whether he can do more than keep present rationing arrangements going. Both he and Bourn think that at present stage it will be preferable to leave representations to Geneva. I agree with this unless new developments make our intervention necessary.

2. Phillips had conversation this morning with Karume from which it now seems likely that Zanzibar authorities will want to retain Arabs. We may have to consider whether in view of this it would be desirable for us to continue to work for their return to Muscat.

3. I shall be discussing this new situation with Bourn and Phillips and will telegraph recommendations.

4. Phillips asks if you would inform Whittington, British Red Cross London of his arrival and tell her that Phillips can be contacted though Tanganyika Red Cross.

Copy to:-

EAST AFRICA POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION.
J.I.C. DISTRIBUTION

Foreign Office Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. C.D Powell

3/9

ALLOTTED TO EAST AFRICA POLITICAL DEPT.

(6)

(DAR 18/5)

RESTRICTED

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

20 June, 1968

Settlement of Zanzibaris in Muscat

(4)

Would you please refer to Wright's letter of 24 May to me, copied to you, on this subject.

2. Since any question of settlement in Muscat would be entirely dependent on the Sultan's willingness to take the people involved, and, presumably, to find them some form of employment, I should be grateful for your views on what might be said to Mr. Lamki. We are inclined to share the views expressed in Hobden's letter (DAR 18/13) of 7 June to Wright (now copied to you), that it would not really be in our interest to get involved in any recognised plan for resettlement but it might, I suppose, be possible to do something on a channel-of-information basis, if the Sultan was prepared to consider taking some of these people. (5)

3. I have not been able to get hold of the papers about the earlier negotiations on Manga Arabs but my own impression is that Hobden's recollections are generally correct but that the numbers involved were somewhat smaller.

(P. Gent)
ARABIAN DEPARTMENT

D.C. Carden, Esq.,
Muscat

copied to: P.R.H. Wright, Esq., Cairo
R.H. Hobden, Esq., Canadian High Commission,
British Interests Section, Dar es Salaam

RESTRICTED

(6)

Registry No. BT 18/5

DRAFT

Type 1 +

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
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Staff in Confidence.

To:—

D. C. Corden Esq.:

Muscat

From

P. Gent

Telephone No. & Ext.

Department

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Settlement of Zanzibaris in Muscat

Would you please refer to Wright's letter of 24 May to me, copied to you, on this subject. 2. Since any question of settlement in Muscat would be entirely dependent on the Sultan's willingness to take the people involved, and, presumably, to find them some form of employment, I should be grateful for your views on what might be said to Th. Lamki. We are inclined to share the views

c.c.
P. R. H. Wright Esq.,
Cairo

c.c.
R. H. Hobden
Canadian High Commission,
British Interests Section,
Dar es Salaam.

(8635) Dd.033274 300m 10/66 G.W.B.Ltd. Gp.863

expressed in Hobden's letter (DAR 18/13) of 7 June to Wright (was copied to you), that it would not really be in our interest to get involved in any recognised plan for resettlement but it might, I suppose, be possible to do something on a channel-by-channel information basis, if the Sultan was prepared to consider taking some of these people.

P.B. 19/6.

3. I have not been able to get hold of the papers about the earlier repatriation of Ranya Hobden but my own impression is that Hobden's recollections are generally correct but that the numbers involved were somewhat smaller.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

(5)

13/6

P. Gent, Esq.,
Arabian Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W.1.

RECEIVED IN
ARCHIVES No. 5
13 JUN 1968
BT 181/5

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS

OF THE OFFICE OF THE

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA

DE LA PART DU

HAUT COMMISSARIAT DU CANADA

BRITISH INTERESTS SECTION.

(R.H.Hobden)
7 June, 1968.

Letter forwarded (6)

R.A. C.L.
19/6

CONFIDENTIAL

(5)

DAR 18/13

Canadian High Commission,
British Interests Section,
DAR ES SALAAM.

7 June, 1968.

(4)

Resettlement of Zanzibaris in Muscat

You wrote to Gent in the Foreign Office on 24 May about Lamki's enquiry as to whether H.M.G. might facilitate the resettlement in Muscat of exiled Zanzibaris now living in Cairo.

2. Because of the breach in diplomatic relations we have no classified papers here of any earlier date than December 1965 and have in fact nothing on record in this Office on this subject. I can, however, recollect that the general question of resettling Zanzibaris in Muscat has been a live issue on earlier occasions. I believe that shortly after the Revolution in January 1964 some 4,000 Manga Arabs were repatriated to Muscat and Oman with the help of the Red Cross and, I think also, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Since then I can also recall First Vice-President Karume making a public speech in which he maintained that there was no longer any need for any Arabs in Zanzibar to want to leave the islands. There is still a genuine belief amongst the Revolutionary Council in Zanzibar that the former Sultan will one day launch an invasion of Zanzibar and any large exodus of Zanzibar Arabs to Muscat would only encourage the belief that they were undertaking the necessary military training before being sent back to Zanzibar. I think, therefore, that it would not be in H.M.G's interest to be in any way involved in any recognised plan for resettling these people. The numbers in Cairo may of course be very small and it may be possible on humanitarian grounds to do something for them.

3. I am sending a copy of this letter to Gent in Arabian Department in the Foreign Office and also to Pettitt in East Africa Department, Commonwealth Office, who will be able to check whether or not my recollections referred to above are correct.

(R.H.Hobden)

P.R.H.Wright, Esq.,
British Embassy,
CAIRO.

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED

FO 371/184

BRITISH EMBASSY,

CAIRO.

24 May, 1968.

IN ARCHIVES No. 5
20 MAY 1968
BT 18/5

Dear Gent,

Mr. Ahmed Lamki called on the Ambassador on 21 May. Mr. Lamki was Ambassador of Zanzibar in Cairo from the time of Zanzibar's independence at the end of 1963 until the revolution of January 1964. It appears that Mr. Lamki has continued to live in Cairo since then although he has made visits to the United Kingdom, Kuwait and other Arab countries where he has been trying with some success to find employment for young Zanzibaris of the old régime of whom there are still a number in Cairo. (Mr. Lamki did not specify how many).

2. One of the matters into which Mr. Lamki enquired was whether H.M. Government might do something to facilitate the settlement of exiled Zanzibaris now living in Cairo in Muscat. The reason for choosing Muscat was the family relationship between the Sultans of Zanzibar and Muscat.

3. Could you please let me know what chance there is of achieving any settlement on these lines, and what reply we can give to Mr. Lamki?

4. I am copying this letter to the Consulate-General at Muscat and the British Interests Section of the Canadian High Commission at Dar es Salaam who may have views on the subject.

Yours ever.

Patrick Wright

(P.R.H. Wright)

P. Gent, Esq.,
Arabian Department,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Carden will no doubt comment. It seems unlikely that the Sultan would welcome people from Cairo.

BC. 6/6.
Yes
P.H. 6/6
GV. 7/6

RESTRICTED

A. J. D. Stirling, Esq.,

(3)

With the compliments of

HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S
CONSUL-GENERAL
(D. C. Carden)

RECEIVED IN
ARCHIVES No. 5
- 4 APR 1968
BT 18/5

(18/8)

24 March, 1968

BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL
MUSCAT

(3)

(18/8)

BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL,

MUSCAT,

24 March, 1968

(2) W.2

Refugees from Zanzibar

The Political Agent in Dubai, Mr. Roberts, in his letter to you No. 22/2 of 28 February said that he was copying his letter and your letter to him of 30 January, to me in case I have any observations on the subject.

2. As you will know, shortly after the revolution in Zanzibar the Sultanate authorities as a special measure suspended their normal procedures so as to facilitate the solution of the refugee problem created by the revolution. However, by May 1965 they considered that the time had come for a return to their normal practices and on 20 May 1965 the Department of External Affairs issued a notice, the second and third paragraphs of which read as follows:

"All concerned are hereby advised that Sultanate Nationals at present residing in Zanzibar and other African countries who desire to return to the Sultanate should not conform to the normal formalities for obtaining Sultanate travel documents from the Sultanate Passport Office before their arrival at Muscat. Applications from abroad should be sent through relatives in this country to the Passport Office or may be addressed direct to this office accompanied by a sum of Rs. 25/- (equivalent to £1.17.8 or 1.882 South Arabian Dinar) as fees and postage and 4 copies of the applicants passport size photographs.

Persons without passports will not be allowed to land."

3. It is against this background that I make two observations. First, it may be easier in practice for an Omani to establish his claim to Sultanate nationality if he is in Dubai than if he is in Tanzania simply because of the greater speed with which mails will be transmitted between Dubai and Muscat. Second, if you wish to pursue problems concerning entry into the Sultanate, then the appropriate authority with which to deal would be:

The Secretary of External Affairs,
Department of External Affairs,
MUSCAT, Sultanate of Muscat and Oman.

(D. C. Carden)
H.B.M.'s Consul General

L. A. Goodyear, Esq.,
U.N. Commissioner for Refugees,
P.O. Box 3216,
BEIRUT

D.A. Roberts, Dubai
c.c. H.G. Balfour Paul,
Bahrain
A.J.D. Stirling, F.O.

UNCLASSIFIED

28 February, 1968.

With the compliments of

COMMERCIAL OFFICE

A.J.D.Stirling, Esq.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1

RECEIVED IN ARCHIVES No. 5
6-MAR 1968
BT 18/5

H.B.M. POLITICAL AGENCY

TRUCIAL STATES

DUBAI

(2)

H.M.POLITICAL AGENCY,
TRUCIAL STATES,
DUBAI.

(22/2)

28 February, 1968.

att. copy.

Thank you for your letter HCRLEB/GY/11/30 of 30 January about certain Manga Arabs in Zanzibar.

I am not clear on the basis for thinking that if the Zanzibaris in question (the enclosure to your letter was in fact missing) would have good prospects of being able to enter Muscat and Oman from Dubai if they could prove their nationality. To the best of my knowledge, it would only be easier from them to enter Muscat from Dubai if, after a suitably long period of residence, they managed to obtain a Dubai passport. You may have information of which I am unaware and, if so, I would certainly expect no objection from the Dubai Government to these Zanzibaris passing through Dubai in transit. In fact, there is already a steady trickle of Zanzibaris coming into Dubai and no objection is raised to them.

As regards visa formalities, the Zanzibar Association in Dubai could no doubt sponsor the persons concerned and visa could be obtained at the British Interests Section of the Canadian High Commission at Dar es-Salam.

I am sending a copy of this letter with a copy of your letter under reference to my colleague in Muscat in case he should have any observations on the question of entry of Zanzibaris to Muscat from Dubai.

(D.A.Roberts)

L.A.Goodyear, Esq.,
U.N.High Commissioner for Refugees,
P.O.Box 3216,
Beirut.

Copied to: H.G.Balfour-Paul, Esq., Bahrain
D.C.Carden, Esq., Muscat.
A.J.D.Stirling, Esq., F.O.

UNITED NATIONS
BRANCH OFFICE IN LEBANON OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

NATIONS UNIES
DELEGATION AU LIBAN DU
HAUT COMMISSAIRE POUR LES REFUGIES

TELEPHONE : [redacted] 272160-1
P. O. BOX : [redacted] 5214

مكتب مندوب الأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين

CABLE : HICOMREF, BEIRUT

HCRLEB/CI/11/30

30 January 1968

Dear Mr. Roberts,

My colleague in Dar es Salaam has referred to me a problem which has been raised by the Zanzibari representative of the Tanganyikan Red Cross Society concerning certain Manga Arabs now in Zanzibar who wish to proceed to Muscat, but who are experiencing great difficulty in obtaining entry visas.

It would appear that the applicants (see attached list) are Omani-born Arabs who settled in Zanzibar. We know that, if admitted to Dubai, they have good prospects of being able to enter Muscat and Oman if they can prove their nationality.

No list attached

I would be most grateful for any way that you could suggest to help them. Would it be possible for the Dubai Government to agree to their passing through in transit? If so, where can they apply in Zanzibar (or Tanganyika)?

I have just heard from the local Zanzibari Association in Dubai of the Ruler's agreement to issue taxi licenses to Ali Jangoli and Ahmed Muhammed, both very deserving cases. I can only, once more, express my appreciation of the sympathy and goodwill shown to refugees by the Dubai authorities.

I hope to have the pleasure to see you again soon,

Yours sincerely,

Leslie A. Goodrich
Representative for the Middle East

David Roberts Esq.,
British Political Agent,
Dubai.

UNCLASSIFIED

(1821/67C)

(1)

Enter under 20/9

With the compliments of

H.B.M. POLITICAL AGENT

RECEIVED IN
ARCHIVES No. 5
20 SEP 1967
BT 18/5

Copy Sat 25/9 Regis Fed. Pl send 25/9

Cd a copy please be sent to UKMIS Geneva?

H.B.M. POLITICAL AGENCY
TRUCIAL STATES
DUBAI

Copy to Mays 21/9.

P. Gent, Esq., Arabian Dept., F.O.

14 September, 1967.

UN (Econ) Dept (Mr Mays)

Transmission 20/9

(1)

UNCLASSIFIED

(1821/67C)

H.B.M. POLITICAL AGENCY,
TRUCIAL STATES,
DUBAI.
14 September, 1967.

Zanzibari Refugees

I received a visit this morning from Dr. Jack Barakat of the UNRWA staff in Beirut. He came to follow up a visit earlier this year of Goodyear, Representative for the Middle-East of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

2. Dr. Barakat said that he had interviewed a number of Zanzibaris from whom he hoped to select eight candidates for vocational training in Beirut. He said the main difficulty would be in obtaining passports for the Zanzibaris, who were stateless. I said that there was no assistance we could offer in this connection and that the best course seemed to me for an approach to the Ruler of Dubai for Dubai passports for the students.

3. I asked him whether he would consider offering scholarships for training in nursing to Zanzibaris next year. He promised to look into this. The training of Zanzibaris in medical work might help us to overcome here the shortage of local nurses. There is no lack of candidates.

4. I am sending a copy of this letter to James Craig in Beirut, Peter Gent in Arabian Department of the Foreign Office and to United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations in New York.

(T.J. Clark)

M.R. Melhuish, Esq.,
Political Residency,
BAHRAIN.

Zanzibari refugees in Muscat. 1967-1968. MS Refugee Records from the Offices of the United Kingdom, 1947-1970 FCO 8/912. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom). Refugees, Relief, and Resettlement, link.gale.com/apps/doc/IRZERT260922322/RRRW?u=omni&sid=bookmark-RRRW&pg=1. Accessed 11 Apr. 2024.